Import of rubber

463. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of rubber through all Indian ports by removing restrictions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY {SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on import of plantation commodities

464. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

W\/ the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the import of plantation commodities for re-export from the country by multinational companies has adversely affected the Indigenous plantation industry especially tea industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government would impose a temporary ban on import of plantation commodities for re-export from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) In the case of plantation commodities tea, coffee and rubber, the import of the commodities for re-export has not affected the domestic industry for the reasons given below:

* In the case of tea, M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., which is also a 100% Export Oriented Unit (EOU), is the only multinational company importing tea into India for the purpose of re-export after making some value addition. No tea imported by the company is sold in the domestic market. Import of tea for reexport has been allowed in order to increase the price